THE PULU TRADE. Pulu is not an important article

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Kapiolani Park, Jan. 22, 1885. 925 5m

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of commerce. Most of that consumed in the United States comes from the Hawaiian Islands and is imported by way of San Francisco. It is a sort of vegetable silk, obtained from a species of fern. Hawaiian Pulu is grown on lands elevated 1,000 to 4,000 feet above the level of the sea, and is principally confined to the districts of Hilo, Hamakua and Puna on the island of Hawaii. The plant frequently reaches the height of 15 feet, and when four years old produces from 2 to 4 ounces of fibre. It is gathered by women and children and laid on rocks and mats to dry, when it is packed in bales as Wool for exportation. It is of dark brown color, and when on the stalks resembles the covering of animals. From this circumstance, it is supposed the ancient fable of the Scythian or vege-table lamboriginated. It is only within 30 or 35 years that it became an article of export from Honolulu. In 1851, the record shows only 2,500 lbs exported from that port, while in 1858 the total was 313,200 lbs. The shipments of the crop have been divided between California, British Columbia and Australia, San Francisco taking the bulk of the yield. The article was first introduced here in 1854 and sold at 28c per lb. Its principal use has been in upholstery. Pulu pillows and bolsters were more common here twenty years ago than now.
Of late years the quantity of Pulu
received here has been very small, and for the past year or two imports appear to have been discontinued. When woven, the article produces a fabric intermediate in character between Silk and Wool.

The imports of Pulu at San Francisco from 1862 to 1882 were as follows: ---

 1862, bales...4,693
 1873, bales...2,873

 1863......2,633
 1874......2,805

 1864......6,646
 1875.....2,306
 1865......3,833 1876 952 1866.......2.457 | 1877...... 240 1867.........2,203 | 1878....... 242 1868......3,070 1879....... 206 1869......5,820 1880...... 202 1872......4,011

For a number of years, as will be seen, these imports have been falling off, and for the past two years they appear to have ceased altogether, or the quantity has become too small to be considered worth recording. Whether the Hawaiian crop has fallen off in the ratio indicated by the imports here, or whether the difference is due to a greater home consumption on the islands of late years, are questions that cannot be correctly answered with the information at hand. It is known, however, that the exports from the Hawaiian Islands in the past few years have been quite light. Perhaps the objection raised against its use here may have led to a reduction in the imports. It is apt to sift through the covering, is not as lively as some other upholstering material, and some people imagine its use in bolsters causes headache. These reasons, however, are probably not the only ones for a cessation of imports. The large decline in price has probably discouraged its production and preparation for the market to a considerable extent .--S. F. Bulletin.

According to the decision of a Quincy debating club, there is more pleasure in seeing a man thread a needle than a woman drive a nail.



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